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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SIG-01
MMO-01 SSO-00 PER-01 /038 W
----------281021Z 111873 /12
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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3906
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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FROM THE AMBASSADOR

STATE FOR M, A, EUR, A/OC, S/IG; BONN FOR RCO

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, ACOM, AORG, APER
SUBJ: NEED FOR COMMUNICATION PERSONNEL SUPPORT

REF: (A) USNATO 2507, (B) STATE 100135

1. BASED UPON MY REVIEW OF USNATO'S OPERATIONS SINCE MY ARRIVAL MAY 2, I FIND WE FACE HERE A CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF COMMUNICATORS IN OUR COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS SECTION. OUR COMMUNICATORS HAVE BEEN STANDING TWELVE HOUR WATCHES SINCE JANUARY; THEIR LEAVES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR DEFERRED; AND THERE IS NO RELIEF IN SIGHT. THE CONSEQUENT MORALE PROBLEMS ARE DAMAGING TO OUR MISSION AND IMMEDIATE HELP IS ESSENTIAL.

2. THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF NUMEROUS MESSAGES (REFTELS) OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, AND HAS BEEN ADDRESSED BY THE INSPECTORS AND BY OUR LOCAL SECRETARIAL TASK FORCE AND AFSA CHAPTER. IT APPEARS THAT WASHINGTON HAD HOPED FOR RELIEF, WITHOUT PROVISION
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OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL, AS A RESULT OF THE TERP INSTALLATION, AND DELAYED FURTHER ACTION PENDING A REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AFTER THE TERP WAS IN FULL OPERATION. WE HAVE NOW OPERATED UNDER THE TERP FOR A MONTH, AND WHILE IT HAS REDUCED COMMUNICATOR TELEGRAM PROCESSING TIME BY ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT TO PUNCH EACH CABLE, IT HAS NOT REDUCED THE TOTAL MAN-DAY

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WORKLOAD, WHICH CONTINUES TO INCREASE AS WE LAUNCH THE PRESIDENT'S NATO INITIATIVES. IF CABLE TRANSMITTAL WERE THE ONLY COMMUNICATOR TASK, TERP WOULD HAVE BEEN A MAJOR WORK-REDUCTION FACTOR. BUT IT IS NOT. USNATO'S COMMUNICATIONS CENTER CONTINUES TO REQUIRE AROUND-THE-CLOCK OPERATION SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. AS HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY STATED, WE DO NOT FORESEE THE POSSIBILITY OF A REDUCTION SO LONG AS WE CARRY THE IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING THE ALLIES WITH TIME-SENSITIVE REPORTING ON THE STATUS OF READINESS OF U. S. FORCES AND CHANGES THERETO. AND THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO THIS RESPONSIBILITY SHORT OF ESTABLISHING A DUPLICATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COMMUNICATION CENTER AT NATO. SUCH A REDUNDANCY WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFEND FROM A BUDGETARY POINT OF VIEW AND, IN ANY CASE, WOULD BE AN UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING THE INTEGRATED STATE/DEFENSE CHARACTER OF THIS IMPORTANT MISSION.

3. OUR STAFFING CURRENTLY AUTHORIZES TWELVE C&R SPACES AND THE INSPECTORS ALSO RECOMMENDED RESTORATION OF TWO ADDITIONAL SPACES ELIMINATED IN 1974, FOR A TOTAL OF FOURTEEN. WE ARE CURRENTLY MANNED WITH TEN, WITH ONE OF THESE BEING CARRIED OVER-COMPLEMENT UNTIL THE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED. THUS, IN EFFECT, TO MEET OUR ABSOLUTELY IMMEDIATE URGENT REQUIREMENTS, THE DEPARTMENT NEEDS TO:

(A) CONVERT THE OVER-COMPLEMENT POSITION TO A PERMANENT POSITION; AND

(B) REINSTATE AND FILL BY JULY 1 THE TWO VACANT

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POSITIONS. IF THIS IS DONE, AND WITH THE ARRIVAL IN JUNE AND AUGUST OF THE REPLACEMENTS TO FILL TWO EXISTING VACANCIES, WE CAN RIDE OUT THE YEAR AND MEET THE HEAVY NEW DEMANDS PLACED UPON US BY THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM AGREED AT THE NATO SUMMIT THIS MONTH.BENNETT

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Sent Date: 28-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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